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Resources and Development Committee discusses Navajo Agriculture Products Incorporated audit report and farming ventures

WINDOW ROCK – On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee discussed a report from Navajo Agricultural Products Incorporated regarding their 2012-2013 audit.

NAPI is a Navajo Nation owned farming enterprise that produces Navajo Pride brand agricultural products such as potatoes, alfalfa, beans, small grains, and corn. NAPI is located near Farmington, operating one of the largest ranges of farmland in the country.

The NAPI audit report included an extensive review of 2012-2013 financial statements, a listing of capital and assets, expenditures, and summaries of single audits.

NAPI chief financial officer Darryl Maltine, reviewed the audit report with RDC members and explained that NAPI's newest venture is aimed at strengthening the Navajo Pride flour brand.

Maltine added that in the past NAPI sold a large quantity of its wheat crop to the Blue Bird Flour Company, and are now redirecting those efforts to increase the familiarity of Navajo Pride flour brand amongst the Navajo People.

"I am unsatisfied with the audit report," said RDC member Council Delegate Leonard H. Pete (Chinle). "We should hear that you are helping our Navajo people with a fair price of hay and other NAPI products."

Delegate Pete added that although financial information is important, he had hoped to receive a report regarding NAPI's efforts to assist Navajo communities with farming and providing them with a fair price for NAPI products.

"Right now, we are strengthening NAPI's stance in the flour mill market. We are getting people to know the Navajo Pride brand of flour," said Maltine. "As a board and management we would like to provide some type of return to accommodate and help our Navajo People."

"We would like to see NAPI create an Arizona expansion plan for NAPI II," said RDC member Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake). "We need a way to give back to the Navajo people so they can be proud of it."

Delegate Tsosie also mentioned the need for NAPI to work with rural Navajo farmers to share their expertise and knowledge of modern farming.

The RDC approved the report with a vote of 4-0.

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